

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair Broadcasting, in demanding that their stations run "Stolen Honor" as a news event is misleading the American public, as well as doing us a severe disservice. Where's the news? This documentary is at best an editorial, containing a number of factual inaccuracies including: edited footage from Kerry's testimony in front of Congress, which makes him appear to attribute atrocities to our soldiers which he specifically attributed to the North Vietnamese, as well as hearsay and baseless accusations which have since been proved false by many independent sources.

As far as I am aware, none of these inaccuracies are confronted during Sinclair's "News Special". As such, it can only be seen as an illegal attempt to circumvent election law and put forth an inflammatory opinion piece just days before the election.

If Michael Moore is banned from showing his inflammatory documentary on Pay Per View, how is it that Sinclair broadcasting can air their inflammatory piece days before an election, for free?

If Sinclair Broadcasting can declare events from thirty years ago "newsworthy" while in the same year ban the showing of a Nightline special where they simply read the names of our soldiers currently dying in the Iraq war, how can that broadcast group's judgment alone be trusted to decide what is "newsworthy", and what is not?

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.